the cost of providing accommodation was beyond their pecuniary capacity, especially at a time when they had spent more than one and a half lakhs of rupees in opening many vernacular schools. Kartikapalli was the only taluk on that side of the country which was not blessed with an English High school; they had to close an English High school for want of sympathetic treatment from Government; there were more than 200 students of the place who were studying in other high schools and many had to discontinue their studies owing to pecuniary difficulties. They had now five lower grade English schools under their management; there was a net profit to Government of more than Rs. 1,000 from the local lower grade English school. The opening of higher forms would not in any way be a source of loss to Government, and even if the opening of Form VI might cause a little expense to Government, such expense was one to which the inhabitants of the taluk might lay legitimate claim.

Dewan's reply.—The report of the Educational Expenditure Committee says that the existing departmental High schools should be converted into aided schools, but in view of the strength of the Haripad school the question of raising its standard will be considered.

111. Need for special concessions to the Kammala community in the matter of education.

Mr. N. Nilacantan Asari (Member, Nominated) dwelt on the great services rendered by the members of his community to the public at large, and referred to their deplorable backwardness in matters educational. He prayed for the grant of the following concessions to his community :—

(1) that full-fee concession should be allowed to Kammala students;

(2) that special scholarships should be instituted in Colleges for the benefit of Kammala students; and

(3) that sufficient encouragement should be given to the qualified men who were already in service and to those who were seeking public service.

Dewan's reply.—It has been reported that the condition of the Kammala community is not such as to need the fee concession asked for. Since, however, you represent that the community is a poor one, the question whether it stands in need of fee concession will be re-examined on further enquiry and with reference to what is obtaining elsewhere.

As for appointments in the public service, a list of vacancies will be published periodically, and if applications are made by persons with the prescribed qualifications to the Selection Committee, they will be considered by that Committee. Promotions in the service will depend on qualifications, merit, seniority and such other considerations.

112. The depressed classes and the policy of Government in the matter of education.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) dwelt on the growing decrease of students among the different sections of his community and drew the attention of Government to the injustice involved in affording equality of treatment to rich Mahomedan and Malayala Brahmins and poor Pulayas in the matter of educational concessions. He urged the necessity for the following concessions being accorded to the members of his community :—

(1) that they should be wholly exempted from school fees;

(2) that they should be given mid-day meals as in Cochin;

(3) that special scholarships should be granted to pupils studying in Classes V, VI, and VII of vernacular schools and in English schools;

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...at a Pulaya student should be selected each year to undergo training ... Patasala from the beginning of the next school year, Government ... all his expenses;

(5) that Pulayas should be freely employed in the departments of Industries, Agriculture; and

(6) that scholarships should not be discontinued in the case of Pulaya pupils on account of failure in examinations, and that they should be admitted to schools irrespective of their age.

Dewan's reply.—It is not possible to give an immediate reply to the various points mentioned by you. All your suggestions will receive the careful consideration of Government.

113. Raising the English School at Shertallay to the standard of a complete Higher grade English school and opening Class VIII in the local higher grade vernacular school.

Mr. Vinamsy Thomas (Member, Shertallay Taluk) remarked that, though the taluk took the first rank in point of revenue among the taluks of the State, the facilities available for education were very meagre. The taluk is 118 square miles in extent, with a population of 1,56,580, and the pupils of school-going age numbered 23,487; but for their education there existed at present only 34 lower grade vernacular schools for boys and 7 lower grade vernacular schools for girls. He then cited instances to show that in some parts of the taluk there were no schools within a distance of 8 or 9 miles. There were only three complete higher grade vernacular schools for boys and four incomplete higher grade vernacular schools for boys in the whole taluk. He requested that, in view of the fact that lower grade vernacular schools were sanctioned at the rate of 1 per square mile in many taluks with abundant facilities for travelling, a school each might be started in the Shertallay taluk for every 2½ square miles as fixed by the Education Code. He also requested that the incomplete higher grade vernacular schools might be made complete higher grade vernacular schools and that industries such as coir making, wood work, rattan industry, screwpine industry, button making from cocoanut shells, etc., might be taught in the complete higher grade vernacular schools. Dealing with the extremely backward condition of female education in the taluk, he prayed that many lower grade vernacular schools for girls might be started in various parts of the taluk, that higher grade vernacular schools for girls might be started at Kattur and Eramallur and that Class VIII might be opened in any one of the higher grade vernacular schools in the taluk.

Then coming to English education, the Member said that in the whole taluk there was only one incomplete higher grade English school and one lower grade English school. The facilities for English education in the Shertallay taluk when compared with those of the neighbouring taluks were very inadequate. He therefore prayed that Form VI might be opened in the Shertallay incomplete higher grade English school with effect from the beginning of the next school year and that lower grade English schools might be opened at Turavur and at Mararikulam.

114. Raising the standard of the English School at Shertallay by the opening of the School Final Class.

Mr. Adichan Narayanan (Member, Shertallay Taluk) described in detail the physical features of the taluk and how it had been long neglected. He pleaded for the urgent need for developing the taluk in all directions. He then traced the progress of English education in the taluk and pointed out that, in the best interests of the taluk, the existing school should be made a complete High School by opening Form VI with effect from the next academical year. He also expressed on behalf of the taluk that the people were prepared to acquire 1·17 acres of land for the use of the school, as desired by Government.

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